

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

California State University Federal Agenda for 2008

Presentation By

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Summary

This item contains a presentation of items for inclusion in the 2008 CSU Federal Agenda.

Background

In January 2007, the Board of Trustees adopted the 2007 CSU Federal Agenda, a federal legislative program for the system that included both policy and project priorities for the first session of the 110th Congress. Over the past year, the CSU's Office of Federal Relations (OFR) and system leaders worked in Washington to advance those priorities. With regard to the system's policy priorities, the CSU had a significant impact on their primary focus, the still developing reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), which was last reauthorized for five years in 1998 and has been extended numerous times since. For example, in April, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed submitted extensive input on HEA reauthorization in response to a request from the bi-partisan leadership of the House Committee on Education and Labor. In November, that committee passed its version of reauthorizing legislation, HR 4137. The measure includes provisions that would increase the maximum Pell grant authorization and make Pell available for year round study; reauthorize the Perkins Loan program; maintain (and keep separate) the outreach programs known as TRIO and GEAR UP; renew international education programs; create a new graduate program for Hispanic Serving Institutions; enhance instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields; and create new programs to enhance the access of veterans to college. All of these provisions are consistent with CSU agenda priorities, and some had been modified from earlier legislative proposals to help assure greater availability of federal resources to CSU students.

While HEA reauthorization remains unfinished, the Congress did take significant action in the higher education arena this past September by using the budget process to enact HR 2669, the "College Cost Reduction and Access Act." The CSU supported this measure and successfully sought alterations to the legislation for the benefit of CSU students. Key provisions include: adding substantial mandatory funds to annual discretionary appropriations for the maximum Pell grant between now and 2013; a new TEACH program providing significant grants to qualified students who commit to teach high-need subjects or in a high-need school; cutting interest rates on subsidized student loans to 3.4 percent by 2013; new funds for Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving programs; and loan forgiveness for many who work in public sector jobs for ten years. These programs were financed by cuts to lender subsidies.

In addition, in 2007, CSU leaders continued to be asked to provide advice and testimony on a wide range of significant federal policy matters. For example, in July, CSU Assistant Vice Chancellor Allison Jones was invited by

the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to testify about California's "Troops to College" initiative, which is designed to provide quality, affordable educational opportunities to veterans and active duty servicemembers. In September, the House subcommittee that oversees higher education traveled to Cal Poly Pomona to hold a hearing on "Examining Competitiveness through Science, Technology, Engineering and Math." Witnesses included CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed and Cal Poly SLO President Warren Baker. And on November 1, CSU Long Beach President King Alexander was asked to testify before the House Education and Labor committee on controlling college costs and on the CSU's voluntary system of accountability efforts.

With regard to project priorities, the CSU had considerable success in gaining broad support from members of the California Congressional delegation for a number of system (and campus) priorities. For example, CSU's Strategic Language Initiative (SLI) received \$1.2 million in the final FY 2008 Defense appropriations bill - these resources will provide a third year of funding for a collaborative program among at least six CSU campuses that delivers intensive training in Chinese, Korean, Arabic and Farsi. Also, at the end of 2007, the Congress passed a massive omnibus appropriations measure that contained funds for two more of the system's top priorities. HR 2764 provides roughly \$743,000 for the CSU's Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI), which will supplement ongoing state and industry funding, plus be matched by California agricultural industry dollars to enhance applied research being done at the system's four agriculture colleges and other institutions. In addition, the bill includes \$282,000 from the Small Business Administration to assist with development of regional biotechnology workforce training centers overseen by the system's CSUPERB program. Campus earmarks were also included for a variety of programs.

Recommendations for the 2008 Federal Agenda

This past fall the OFR, in coordination with the Chancellor's Office, again set in motion the annual process designed to produce a well-honed federal agenda. In September, Chancellor Reed sent a memo to all 23 CSU presidents and the Executive Staff soliciting recommendations and outlining criteria for the systemwide 2008 Federal Agenda. As in the past, the Chancellor's memo solicited proposals in two distinct areas: (1) federal legislative and regulatory policy; and (2) CSU projects for which direct federal funding will be sought. With respect to both project and policy recommendations, the solicitation emphasized that the federal agenda must be consistent with the CSU system's core objectives, as described in the state's Master Plan, *The Mission of the California State University*, and with the 1998 *Cornerstones Report*, and they must contribute to system goals of preserving access, providing quality instruction, and preparing students for the workforce. While these principles have their own relevance in the federal arena, it was stressed that the federal agenda should also complement and be consistent with our state program in Sacramento.

The items proposed below for inclusion in the 2008 Federal Agenda are based upon submissions received in response to the Chancellor's solicitation, and have advanced through several levels of review, including the Executive Council, and the Chancellor and his executive leadership staff.

Proposed Federal Policy Priorities for 2008

During its second session, the 110th Congress will continue work on reauthorizing the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), many aspects of which significantly impact the CSU and its students. For example, in 2005-06, CSU students and their families benefited from \$1.25 billion in federal financial assistance. Accordingly, the OFR will

continue to work to ensure that the system's interests are advanced during the reauthorization process. In addition, the system will continue to weigh in during relevant federal regulatory efforts that impact the CSU and its students. While the CSU will frequently be called upon to respond to proposals made by others, including members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Education, the following items will continue to be the subject of proactive pursuit:

Pell Grants: Support overall funding increases for the Pell Grant program, an increase to the maximum award, and availability of a second Pell award for students to pursue year-round study.

Early Intervention Programs: Advocate expanding GEAR UP and TRIO, vital to preparing underrepresented students for college and decreasing the need for remediation. These programs, which serve different cohorts of students in distinct ways, should remain separate.

Developing Institutions and Hispanic Serving Institutions: The CSU will work to assure that its campuses receive a fair share of the benefits of programs in Title III and Title V of the HEA that are designed to strengthen "developing" and "Hispanic Serving" institutions, and will support Title V proposals to strengthen graduate programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields: The CSU will advocate programs promoting the participation and success of diverse California students in STEM fields.

Veterans Education: Support programs and legislation that enhance higher education opportunities for veterans of U.S. military service.

International Education Programs: Advocate international education programs that promote global awareness and understanding, and create opportunities for domestic and international students and faculty to study abroad.

Federally supported research: Advocate broadening the federally supported applied research base to include more support for comprehensive universities and authorization of programs to fund the vital workforce preparation conducted by the CSU system.

Community Service Provisions: Advocate increasing incentives for student and campus participation in community service activities, including in the Work-Study program.

Campus-Based Aid Programs Allocation Formula: Support altering the current formula, which affects the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Work-Study, and Perkins Loans programs, to assure allocation of these funds on a fair-share basis to institutions with growing populations of students with need and to newer campuses, which have been most disadvantaged by the current formula.

Perkins Loans: Advocate for the reinstatement of a federal capital contribution for schools that participate in Perkins Loan program, thereby enhancing available resources for needy students.

Sustainability: Support federal initiatives consistent with the CSU commitment to sustainability and promoting the continued economic and ecological viability of the state - not only through best institutional practices, but through

applied research, education, and service.

Federal Project Proposals for 2008 (FY 2009)

More than 40 projects, including both campus and multi-campus proposals, were submitted by the campuses in response to this year's solicitation. It is recommended that, as in recent years, the system's project priorities for 2008 be broken in two categories. The first category would encompass six broad-based, multi-campus initiatives consistent with ongoing system collaborative efforts in core areas of CSU strength:

- **Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI):** ARI leverages state, federal and industry resources to support high impact applied agricultural and related environmental research, development, and technology transfer, as well as public and industry education and outreach.
- **CSU Regional Biotechnology Training Facilities Project:** a proposal led by the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB), to create three biotechnology workforce training centers in the San Diego, Los Angeles/Pasadena and Bay areas to address this vital industry's need for innovative, applied training of its specialized workforce.
- **Strategic Language Initiative (SLI):** a collaborative effort to create programs that integrate language learning with professional majors and career opportunities and serve as a national model for training modules in critical world languages, helping our nation meet the need for strategic and diplomatic expertise in major world languages, global business, and trade and transportation, plus develop the domestic capability to communicate in response to emergency situations.
- **Veterans-CSU Community Engagement Initiative:** a proposed multi-campus project designed to strengthen educational outreach to veterans, active duty service members, and their families to assist them with completing a college degree; the project would also develop a wide array of community-based activities to address veterans' health needs.
- **Next Generation Media Project:** a workforce and product development program in new digital media technologies and applications, linking at least nine system campuses that will partner with industry and provide a test bed for new technologies as well as be an incubator of innovation.
- **CSU marine research equipment:** funds requested would upgrade aging marine research equipment and infrastructure for more than half of the CSU campuses that maintain active coastal marine and research education programs, leveraging existing state and federal resources and benefiting programs throughout the system.

The OFR will work to achieve the broadest and most strategic support possible for these proposals from members of the California Congressional delegation.

The second category would include campus-oriented projects, provided they have been endorsed and prioritized by the campus president, and meet the following criteria:

- The project significantly impacts a major need or priority of the campus or the system, including:
 - The extent to which the project will benefit a university's students, its programs, the local community, the State of California and/or the nation
 - The extent to which the project is well-tailored to the particular competencies and strengths of the university or universities
- The project is well developed including:
 - How clearly articulated and detailed it is
 - Whether the project has additional supporters and advocates among business, alumni, non-profit or political entities
 - Whether the project has partners that are able to assist with the project's success and/or are willing to invest in the project (cash or in-kind) so as to provide a "match" for federal funds being sought
- The project is well suited to the federal appropriations process, including:
 - The past history of federal funding for the project, if relevant
 - The manner in which federal funds will be used
 - The likely availability of the federal dollars from the account/source proposed
 - The extent of known Congressional sponsorship and support
- The project fits within a balanced program of requests for the CSU for reasonable amounts across different areas of funding

Because of the inherently shifting nature of campus, state and national priorities, project requests may evolve from time to time. The OFR will continue to work with the campuses to refine and develop project proposals, and to assist them in working productively with their representatives in Congress as they seek support in the relevant appropriations venues for federal funding in FY 2009.

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Adoption of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the California State University, that the federal legislative program described in Agenda Item 2 of the Committee on Governmental Relations at the January 22-23, 2008 meeting is adopted as the 2008 California State University Federal Agenda.